

Departments of the Navy,  
the Army, and the Air Force  
Washington, DC 20330

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INTERSERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

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1. Purpose. This regulation delineates the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) responsibilities of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force.

2. Comments and Improvements. Send comments and suggested improvements for this publication to each service: Department of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations (OP-374E), Washington, DC 20350-1000; Commandant, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (LPO-1), Washington, DC 20380-0001; Department of the Army (DALO-SMA-EOD), Washington, DC 20310-0541; Department of the Air Force (LGMW), Washington, DC 20330-5130.

3. Terms, Definitions, and Abbreviations

a. Area Control Center. An EOD control center which provides operational control, planning, and administrative service related to EOD operations for assigned geographical areas of responsibility.

b. Biological. As used herein, biological weapons, agents, operations, fillers, etc., are only addressed in relation to foreign ordnance.

c. Common-Type Training. Training in EOD procedures required by two or more Services in the normal execution of their assigned missions.

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d. Coordination. As used here, refers to the active participation between elements of the Services having an interest in EOD activities.

e. Explosive Ordnance (EO). Bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar, rocket, and small arms ammunition; all mines, torpedoes, and depth charges; grenades; demolition charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge- and propellant-actuated devices; electroexplosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices (IEDs); improvised nuclear devices (INDs); and all similar or related items or components explosive in nature. This definition includes all munitions containing explosives, propellants, nuclear fission or fusion materials, and biological and chemical agents.

f. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). The detection, identification, field evaluation, rendering-safe, recovery, and final disposal of unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO). It may also include the rendering-safe and/or disposal of EO which has become hazardous by damage or deterioration, when the disposal of such EO requires techniques, procedures, or equipment which exceed the normal requirements for routine disposal.

g. EOD Incident. The suspected or detected presence of UXO, damaged EO, IED, or IND, which constitutes a hazard to friendly operations, installations, personnel, or material. Not included in this definition are the accidental arming or other conditions that develop during the manufacture of high explosive or nuclear material, technical service assembly operations, or the laying of mines and demolition charges. Such situations will be neutralized by qualified personnel of the organization performing the manufacturing, assembling, or placement of mines and demolition charges. Such organizations may request assistance from EOD units.

h. EOD Procedures. Those particular courses or modes of action for access to, recovery, rendering-safe, and final disposal of EO or any hazardous material associated with an EOD incident.

(1) Access Procedures. Those actions taken to locate and gain access to EO.

(2) Recovery Procedures. Those actions taken to recover EO.

(3) Render Safe Procedures (RSPs). The portion of the EOD procedure which provides for the interruption of functions or separation of essential components of EO to prevent an unacceptable detonation.



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(4) Final Disposal Procedures. The final disposal of EO by EOD personnel, which may include demolition or burning in place or other appropriate and authorized means.

i. Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR). The investigation, detection, location, marking, initial identification, and reporting of suspected EO, in order to determine the need for further action.

j. EOD Tools and Equipment. Those tools and equipment specifically designed for use by qualified EOD personnel in the performance of EOD procedures.

k. Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Those devices placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals, designed to destroy, disfigure, distract or harass. They may incorporate military stores, but are normally devised from non-military components. They may be referred to as improvised chemical devices (ICD) or high-tech IED (HTIED) when the situation or components of the device make it appropriate to do so.

l. Improvised Nuclear Device (IND). A device incorporating radioactive materials designed to result in the dispersal of radioactive material or in the formation of nuclear-yield reaction. Such devices may be fabricated in a completely improvised manner or may be an improvised modification to a U.S. or foreign nuclear weapon.

m. Physical Possession. As used here, physical possession is determined by identifying the Service having custody of the EO at the time of an EOD incident. Physical possession ceases when the EO is intentionally launched, placed, fired or released.

n. Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO). Explosive ordnance which has been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for action, and which has been launched, placed, fired, or released in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to friendly operations, installations, personnel, or materiel and remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other cause.

#### 4. EOD Program Objectives

a. To ensure the capability of the Services to perform their EOD missions in assigned areas of responsibility. This includes emergency EOD support to other Services.

b. To ensure that operational capabilities of EOD organizations permit maximum interoperability of EOD forces in war and optimum mutual support in peace.



5. EOD Mission. The EOD mission is to provide the capability to neutralize hazards from EOD incidents which, because of unusual circumstances, present a threat to operations, installations, personnel, or materiel.

6. Requisite Elements of Capability. The Department of Defense (DoD) EOD capability shall comprise equipment, trained personnel, and procedures to:

a. Exercise control of EOD operations. Establish area control centers.

b. Augment EOD operations with special equipment and personnel. Frequently, to complete their mission, EOD units will require augmentations of their organic resources by additional personnel and equipment.

c. Operate in a nuclear, biological, or chemical environment. In order to perform EOD access techniques and EOD procedures in an environment which has been contaminated by nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, EOD personnel must be specially trained and equipped to operate efficiently for extended periods in a contaminated environment.

d. Perform EOD procedures. This capability is comprised of equipment, trained personnel, and technical information required for the location, excavation, recovery, identification, performance of RSPs, transportation, and disposal of UXO and hazardous EO.

e. Recover and evaluate enemy EO for EOD and intelligence purposes. It is desirable that first-seen enemy EO be rendered safe nondestructively, recovered, evaluated from the standpoint of EOD, and turned over to a technical intelligence team for further exploitation from an intelligence standpoint.

f. Provide for an interchange of information between EOD and technical intelligence agencies. EOD operations must support a two-way flow of information on EO between technical intelligence and EOD.

g. Develop new EOD procedures, tools, and equipment for first-seen enemy EO. Qualified personnel, facilities, and equipment must be available to develop EOD procedures, tools, and equipment.

h. Train EOD personnel in EOD procedures, tools, and equipment. A composite of initial qualification of individuals, team qualification, and recurring refresher training programs for individuals and units.



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i. Inspect and evaluate EOD units. A system of inspection and evaluation of the ability of an EOD unit to perform its assigned mission with maximum proficiency.

7. Responsibilities.

a. Service Responsibilities.

(1) The Service responsible for the development and testing of a new ordnance item will provide, prior to any testing, preliminary EOD technical information to the Service(s) responsible for the EOD test support and range clearance. A copy of this information will be provided to Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center (NAVEODTECHCEN), who will develop and verify all Joint-Service EOD procedures.

(2) The Service responsible for the development and testing of a new ordnance item will provide adequate technical source data (and tools and equipment, if appropriate), to the NAVEODTECHCEN in sufficient time to ensure that EOD procedures, tools, and equipment can be fielded at least 30 days prior to field deployment or stockpile of new domestic EO.

b. EOD Operational Responsibilities.

(1) The Service that first becomes aware of an incident involving EO of another Service or federal agency will take action to prevent or limit damage or injury. Incidents occurring in another Service operational area will be reported in accordance with the responsible Service's operational procedures. Generally, in emergencies, the closest EOD unit should respond immediately with the understanding that the responsible Service retains operational control. In order to insure response by the most qualified and knowledgeable personnel, the application of further render safe and disposal procedures on Service-unique nuclear weapon systems should be performed by EOD personnel of that Service. In the case of improvised nuclear devices, response will be as outlined in DOD Directive 3150.5 of 24 March 1987.

(2) Give assistance to another Service, when requested.

(3) EOD Support to Civil Authorities. Rendering safe and disposing of IEDs, nonmilitary commercial explosives, or similar dangerous articles reported or discovered in areas outside DoD installations are primarily responsibilities of civil authorities, and not normally the responsibility of Service EOD personnel. EOD assistance, in the form of EOD actions and/or advice, may be provided upon request from federal agencies or civil authorities at any level, when a determination has been made by the Service concerned that such assistance is required or desirable in the interest of public safety.



c. Individual Service Operational Responsibilities.

(1) U.S. Army

(a) Provide EOD services on Army installations, or for EO in the physical possession of the Army.

(b) Provide EOD services on the land mass areas, except for those specifically assigned as a responsibility of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force as established in subparagraphs (2), (3), and (4) below.

(c) Provide, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and civil authorities, the establishment, operation, and support of an EOR system on land masses.

(d) Serves as DoD Executive Agent for the coordination and tasking for all Office of Secretary of Defense, U.S. Secret Service, or Department of State EOD support requests.

(e) Serves as primary DoD point of contact to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Energy (DOE) in operations involving INDs/HTIEDs.

(2) U.S. Marine Corps. Provide EOD services on Marine Corps installations, or in assigned operational areas, or for EO in the physical possession of the Marine Corps.

(3) U.S. Navy

(a) Provide EOD services on Navy installations, or in assigned operational areas, or for EO in the physical possession of the Navy.

(b) Provide EOD services within the oceans and contiguous waters, up to the high water mark of sea coasts, inlets, bays, harbors, and rivers.

(c) Provide EOD services in any rivers, canals, or enclosed bodies of water.

(d) Provide EOD services for rendering safe and disposal of EO designed to be used underwater, except when such EO is in the physical possession of another Service.

(4) U. S. Air Force. Provide EOD services on Air Force installations, at dispersal bases (which include non-DoD installations from which Air National Guard and Air Reserve Forces operate), or in assigned operational areas, or EO in the physical possession of the Air Force.



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## d. Operational Coordination:

(1) EOD units/activities will maintain liaison with other Service EOD units/activities within the same geographical area. Activities "coordinated with" shall provide positive participation and shall not operate by default.

(2) Other Services will be advised of potentially serious EOD incidents, including all nuclear weapons accidents, occurring on or outside of a Service's installation and posing a threat to life and/or property, to alert them to possible requests for assistance in accordance with paragraph 6b(2) and existing Service directives.

## (3) Service Funding Responsibilities:

(a) Each Service will provide funding to meet assigned responsibilities.

(b) Each Service is financially responsible for all self-caused EO contamination on own installations and operating areas.

(c) Any Service causing EO contamination on another Service's area of operational responsibility will reimburse the Service having operational responsibility for those costs that are directly attributable to the incident.

(d) When assistance is requested by one Service from another, the requesting Service will, when requested, reimburse the Service performing EOD operations for expenses directly related to the mission.

(e) When EOD assistance is requested that involves formerly used defense sites (FUDS) regardless of which Service is responsible for the EO contamination, cleanup funds will be provided from the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA). Environmental cleanup activities at FUDS are assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

(4) Each Service will provide reports of EOD operations of a significant and/or unusual nature to NAVEODTECHCEN as prescribed in Service directives.

e. Technology and Training. DOD Directive 5160.62 of 26 April 1989 assigned the Secretary of the Navy as Single Manager for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology and Training (EODT&T) and directed the following responsibilities and relationships:

(1) Executive Manager: The Executive Manager (EM) for EODT&T shall be a Flag Officer designated by the Navy, who chairs and provides support to the operations of the DoD EOD Program Board, and who oversees the implementation of the



responsibilities of the Secretary of the Navy in all matters pertaining to the Navy's assignment as Single Manager for EODT&T within the Department of Defense.

(a) Under the EM's guidance, the following will be provided:

1. Joint Service EOD plans for expansion of training and employment of EODT&T resources in time of war or national emergency, consistent with allocations approved by the Secretary of Defense.

2. A Naval EOD Technology Center (NAVEODTECHCEN) and Naval School, EOD (NAVSCOLEOD) collocated at Indian Head, Maryland, and staffed according to the existing SECNAV guidelines and in consultation with the other Secretaries of the Military Departments. The Commanding Officers of NAVEODTECHCEN and NAVSCOLEOD are respectively designated Deputy Manager for Technology and Deputy Manager for Training. The Deputies are authorized to state policy and make commitments on routine matters for the Executive Manager of the DoD EODT&T Program.

3. EOD research, technology, and training support to the following agencies and organizations: Departments of Justice, Energy, Treasury, and Defense; Secret Service; FBI; Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the Joint Staff, and Unified and Specified Commands; the Defense Agencies in support of JCS plans; Military Services, (i.e. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force); the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); DoD Explosive Safety Board; DoD Field Activities (collectively known as "DoD Components"; law enforcement agencies; civil authorities); and other organizations and military operations as may be authorized by the Secretary of Defense.

4. EOD technology support to the Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, and other organizations as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense.

5. Standardization of EOD tools, equipment, documentation, and procedures between the individual Services to ensure that efficiency of operational units is promoted.

6. Analysis of EOD technical data, and reporting to the Material, Logistics, Systems, Intelligence, and Operational Agencies or Commands of specific technical data relevant to their defense missions.

7. All common-type EOD training (basic, advanced, and refresher) and special/unique training to meet Service requirements as requested.



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8. All EOD individual training for foreign students in Continental United States (CONUS).

9. Primary source of contact for all international exchange agreements on EOD, as may be authorized by the Secretary of Defense under existing instructions governing the interchange of technical information.

10. Technical development, validation, preparation, Joint Service verification, Military Technical Acceptance Board (MTAB) approval, publication, and distribution of all EOD procedures, texts, graphic aids, manuals, and bulletins (except prescribed non-Navy Joint Nuclear Weapons Publications System (JNWPS) documents).

11. A central system of procurement and stocking of required EOD tools and equipment in coordination, as necessary, with the Defense Supply Agency.

12. Primary source and point of contact in the DoD for EOD access/disablement technology development and training in coordination with the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to DOE. Maintain a technical response team to provide IND access/disablement technical assistance to operational EOD forces in training and operations.

13. Procedures, tools, and equipment to the Services to permit receipt by operational and training elements at least 30 days prior to field deployment or stockpile of new domestic EO.

(2) EOD Program Board. The DoD EOD Program Board acts in advisory and staff capacity to the Executive Manager and shall be composed of one flag or general officer from each Service. Each Service will designate a staff officer, who is qualified or experienced in EOD to act in an advisory and staff capacity to the EOD Program Board member from that service. The Board will perform the following functions:

(a) Provide the normal channel for communication between the Service and the Executive Manager. The members will serve as the Services' voice on program requirements and as the focal point of Service recommendations. Requests for new tools and equipment will be documented and forwarded to the Deputy Manager for Technology for coordination.

(b) Negotiate the content of the annual EODT&T program content as a staff action for the Executive Manager in his role of establishing the program and preparing the plan and budget.



(3) Military Technical Acceptance Board (MTAB). The EOD MTAB at NAVEODTECHCEN shall approve, for Joint-Service use, all EOD tools, equipment, and procedures. The Board shall be composed of:

(a) A Chairperson (rotated on an annual basis among the Service Detachments);

(b) A member from each military Service.

(4) Technical Training Acceptance Board (TTAB). The EOD TTAB at NAVSCOLEOD, Indian Head, MD shall ensure, collectively, that established Service-approved training requirements are met. Representatives will approve/accept all aspects of training on behalf of their respective Service. The Board shall be composed of:

(a) A Chairperson (rotated on an annual basis among the Service Detachments);

(b) A member from each military Service.

(5) EODT&T Military Service Contingent. All Services will establish and maintain detachments at NAVEODTECHCEN, Indian Head, MD; NAVSCOLEOD, Indian Head, MD; and NAVSCOLEOD Eglin Air Force Base, FL including appropriate staff, instructor, and technical personnel. Service Detachments at NAVEODTECHCEN Indian Head, MD will be adequately staffed to support the MTAB. Service Detachments at NAVSCOLEOD, Indian Head, MD will include appropriate staff for the TTAB as well as staff and instructor personnel to assist in common-type specialist training (as requested and, as agreed upon), to support the Service's proportionate share of the student load.

(6) Additional Training: Each Service will be responsible for its own EOD unit/team training.

8. Organizing for EOD Service. EOD Service must be performed in CONUS and overseas in peace and war. The organization established within each Service must conform to that which is responsive and best supports operational mission requirements. Establishment of EOD elements at new locations will consider any existing capability of other Services to preclude unnecessary duplication and overlapping of effort. Interservice support agreements should be used when this arrangement is cost and mission effective.

9. Incident Categories. Each EOD incident will be categorized according to the threat it poses to critical combat resources/facilities or by the resultant destruction potential should the UXO/IED/IND detonate. Incidents will be categorized



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as A, B, C, or D, as defined below. Areas or locations that are potential incident targets should be precategorized whenever possible to assist the risk decision process.

a. CATEGORY A. Assigned to EOD incidents that constitute a grave and immediate threat. Category A incidents are to be given priority over all other incidents. EOD procedures are to be started immediately, regardless of personal risk.

b. CATEGORY B. Assigned to EOD incidents that constitute an indirect threat. Before beginning EOD procedures, a safe waiting period will normally be observed to reduce the hazard to EOD personnel.

c. CATEGORY C. Assigned to EOD incidents that constitute a minor threat. These incidents will normally be dealt with by EOD personnel after Category A and B incidents, as the situation permits, and with minimum hazard to personnel.

d. CATEGORY D. Assigned to EOD incidents that constitute no threat at present.

#### 10. Technical Intelligence.

a. NAVEODTECHCEN will receive notification of all foreign EO items collected and will be invited by the exploitation elements of the Services to participate in, or forward requirements for, all such exploitations. NAVEODTECHCEN shall be prepared to participate in exploitation of foreign EO items, or execute the exploitation of such items, upon request of, and to the extent specifically defined by, the Service having primary exploitation responsibility.

b. Exploitation is a coordinated effort among the Services within the DoD foreign materiel acquisition program. EOD elements of each service are directed to become familiar with the program, as it is executed within their respective Service. They will ensure that pertinent directives properly reflect EOD requirements for data and information concerning foreign EO, as well as for samples of such ordnance, and that internal procedures provide for cooperative activity among EOD and Scientific and Technical (S&T) intelligence elements, with respect to the exploitation of foreign EO.

c. New or unknown items of foreign EO recovered and rendered safe by EOD personnel, together with reports relating the circumstances of acquisition, will be turned over to technical intelligence personnel for disposition through the appropriate Service's technical intelligence channels.



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d. Copies of all exploitation reports addressing foreign EO shall be forwarded through Service channels to the appropriate military detachment at NAVEODTECHCEN, Indian Head, MD, 20640 and/or NAVSCOLEOD, Indian Head, MD 20640. Such reports shall specifically address any "render safe" or EOD procedures used or developed in the course of acquiring and exploiting the item.

e. For planning Purposes only, NAVEODTECHCEN can assume that an S&T intelligence exploitation report of an EO item, prepared at the request of the Service with assigned responsibility for exploitation of the item, should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (1) X-ray print and photographic coverage.
- (2) Complete dimensional data and weight.
- (3) Report of analysis of hazardous components.
- (4) Functioning sequence of fuze and munitions.
- (5) Comparison with similar or like items.
- (6) Reports of any tests performed.
- (7)\_ Chemical analysis of any nonstandard or unusual materials used in the item.

f. Samples of foreign EO with certification as to inert condition obtained from EOD and Service intelligence sources will be provided, when intelligence requirements are satisfied, to the NAVEODTECHCEN for use in developing EOD procedures for common-type specialist training. When the development of EOD procedures is completed, remaining foreign ordnance not required for further intelligence exploitation will be made available to NAVSCOLEOD, and when possible to the Services, for use as training aids.

#### 11. Disclosure of EOD Information and Associated Materiel to Foreign Governments.

a. EOD tools and equipment, EOD training, and EOD information and publications will not be transferred, sold, loaned, or provided to a foreign government except in accordance with the National Disclosure Policy (NDP).

b. Release will be determined through disclosure processing by designated disclosure authorities of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Service directives implementing the NDP are AR 380-10, OPNAVINST 5510.48J, and AFR 200-9.



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c. The Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, under the provisions of the Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 2834, agree to the following:

(1) Participate in the establishment and maintenance of the NATO EOD Technical Information Center (EODTIC) to provide for the exchange of EOR and EOD information.

(2) Provide the EODTIC library with national publications which pertain to EOD tools, equipment, procedures, training, and operations.

(3) The Department of the Navy will establish a focal point for the liaison with the EODTIC and provide funding for the EODTIC in consonance with the guidance of DoD Directive 5160.62 of 26 April 1989 and NATO STANAG 2834.

By Order of the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force:

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